

Remarks

The above-identified application has been carefully reviewed and amended in light of the Examiner's communication mailed April 9, 2004.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's allowance of claims 43 and 46-53 and the Examiner's recognition of allowable subject matter in claims 12, 22, 31, 36-42 and 45 in the above-identified patent application.

The Examiner has stated "Claims 12, 22, 31, 36-42 and 45 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims."

In response, claim 1 has been amended to define the invention of claim 12 written in independent form. Claim 12 has been canceled. Applicant submits that claim 12 defines patentable subject. In addition, applicant submits that Claims 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 36 and 37, each being dependent on amended claim 1, define patentable subject matter.

Claim 18 has been amended to define the invention of claim 22 in independent form. Claim 22 has been canceled. Applicant submits that claim 18 defines patentable subject matter. In addition, applicant submits that claims 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, 34, 39 and 40, each being dependent on amended claim 18, define patentable subject matter are allowable.

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Should any matter remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to call (collect) the applicant's attorney at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank J. Uxa
Reg. No. 25,612
Attorney for the Applicant
4 Venture, Suite 300
Irvine, California 92618
(949) 450-1750
Facsimile (949) 450-1764

FJUxa/LAF